



June 29, 2019

The Honorable Eric Davis
North Carolina State Board of Education
6301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Mr. Davis,

As superintendents of North Carolina's 12 largest school districts, we collectively represent nearly 50 percent of all public school students in North Carolina. We share your priority to ensure that all students are reading on grade-level by third grade. We believe that a strong universal screening and progress monitoring tool is essential to reach this mission.

To help us ensure high-quality implementation of the newly selected reading diagnostic tool, we are asking the State Board of Education to request to delay the implementation as required by Session Law 2018-5. An implementation delay will allow us sufficient time to train teachers so that they can effectively utilize the new tool at the beginning of the school year. Most of our districts have year-round schools which begin as early as July 9. We cannot possibly implement this new assessment tool in just a few short days.

We look forward to partnering with the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to design an implementation plan that will lead to a successful rollout across all districts.

This request is in the best interests of our students, and we sincerely thank you for your leadership on this initiative. We look forward to continued collaboration on behalf of North Carolina's children.

We are most appreciative of your commitment.
Sincerely,



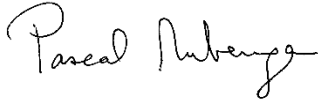
Dr. Chris Lowder
Cabarrus County Schools



Dr. Clayton Wilcox
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



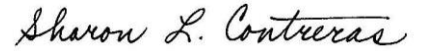
Dr. Marvin Connelly
Cumberland County Schools




Dr. Pascal Mubenga
Durham Public Schools



Dr. Jeff Booker
Gaston County Schools



Dr. Sharon Contreras
Guilford County Schools



Dr. Ross Renfrow
Johnston County Schools



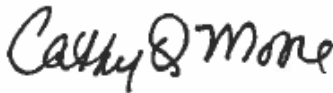
Dr. Tim Markley
New Hanover County Schools



Dr. Barry Collins
Onslow County Schools



Dr. Drew Houlihan
Union County Schools



Ms. Cathy Moore
Wake County Public Schools



Dr. Kenneth Simington
Winston-Salem/Forsyth
County Schools